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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/20

Situation of human rights in Sierra Leone

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 2001/20, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session and to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone, including with reference to reports from the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

2. The Security Council, in its resolution 1370 (2001) of 18 September 2001, extended the mandate of UNAMSIL for a period of six months from 30 September 2001 and inter alia, expressed its continued deep concern at the reports of human rights abuses and attacks committed by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), the Civil Defence Forces (CDF) and other armed groups and individuals against the civilian population, in particular the widespread violation of the human rights of women and children, including sexual violence, and demanded that those acts cease immediately.

II. HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

A. Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the High Commissioner to the General Assembly

3. Since the High Commissioner submitted her previous report to the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Sierra Leone (E/CN.4/2001/35) in February 2001, there has been an improvement in the overall human rights situation, linked to the evolution of the peace process, the resumption of disarmament, the progressive deployment of UNAMSIL throughout the country, the gradual restoration of government authority and the increased responsiveness of government and rebel forces alike to human rights concerns.

4. An indication of the increased commitment of the Government of Sierra Leone to the protection of human rights was its ratification of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 25 April 2001. The Parliament ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 21 August 2001. The Government also invited the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to visit the country in August.

5. The High Commissioner's latest report to the General Assembly (A/56/281) of July 2001 highlighted the progress which had been made in the peace process and its positive impact on the implementation of the human rights mandate of UNAMSIL. Since the High Commissioner submitted her report to the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has submitted the following reports to the Security Council: S/2001/857 of 7 September 2001, S/2001/857/Add.1 of 10 September 2001, S/2001/1195 of 13 December 2001 and S/2001/1195/Add.1 of 10 January 2002.[1] In his twelfth report on UNAMSIL (S/2001/1195), the Secretary-General acknowledged the continuing progress in the implementation of the peace process, particularly as it relates to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. He noted the completion of disarmament in 10 of the 12 districts of the country, including the diamond producing district of

Kono and in Bonthe. These developments, including the deployment of UNAMSIL in all districts of the country and the progressive extension of the Government's authority, have, in turn, extended the scope for human rights monitoring, training and education on issues relating to truth, peace, justice, redress and reconciliation.

6. The month of May 2001 marked a watershed in the ongoing efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sierra Leone. The re-launch of the disarmament process on 18 May came about with the establishment of the joint committee on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). This followed a review of the implementation of the Abuja Cease-fire Agreement of 10 November 2000 (S/2000/1091, annex).

7. Since the setting up of the joint committee on DDR, tripartite meetings between the Government of Sierra Leone, RUF and UNAMSIL have continued to take place on a periodic basis. These meetings have provided the context for important confidence-building initiatives by both parties to the conflict, which have affected the human rights situation positively. For instance, in accordance with the pledge to release child combatants and abductees, between May 2001 and November 2001, the RUF handed over 2,080 children, while the CDF handed over 1,524. Since July 2001, the Government has released several groups of RUF detainees, including two former cabinet ministers. The Government also started to facilitate visits by human rights monitors to both the central and regional prisons.

8. On the political front, the RUF has sought increasingly to attain its objectives through negotiated political solutions and both sides have seemed prepared to compromise. The Government has facilitated the task of transforming the RUF into a political party by, inter alia, assisting it to acquire offices in Freetown, Bo and Makeni. The RUF backed down on its opposition to a six-month extension of the Government's term of office and its demand, along with some civil society groups, for the establishment of an interim government of national unity to lead the country until the next elections.

9. In September 2001, the Parliament voted to extend the state of emergency and the mandate of the Government and Parliament for a further six months, thereby postponing parliamentary and presidential elections until May 2002. The National Electoral Commission (NEC) has completed pre-electoral formalities and submitted a draft electoral law to Parliament. Twenty-two political parties have so far applied for registration and several political parties have been engaged in forming alliances. On 18 January 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone formally lifted the curfew, preparing the way for the electioneering campaign.

10. A National Consultative Conference was convened from 13 to 15 November in Freetown to address core electoral issues. With representatives of the Government, civil society groups and all political parties, including the RUF, in attendance, the Conference adopted 25 consensus resolutions, inter alia endorsing 14 May 2002 as the date for elections, adopting a district bloc representative system, lifting the state of emergency to allow campaign activities, and providing that political parties ensure women form at least 30 per cent of their representation in each district.

B. Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

11. Although the cease-fire has continued to hold, there have been a number of infractions involving attacks on the civilian population. Investigations conducted by the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section show that while the abuses were not systematic, they nonetheless constituted serious violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

12. On 17 June 2001, armed CDF elements attacked Yaraiya village in Koinandugu district. UNAMSIL investigations of this attack indicated that at least 24 civilians, including 18 women and two children, were killed and another 15 wounded, including at least eight children. Sources also alleged that 66 houses were torched and properties were looted by the assailants. This attack appeared to be one of a series of CDF attacks on RUF positions in several villages in the Kono and Koinadugu districts. In apparent retaliation for these attacks, on 19 July 2001, the RUF attacked Henekuna village on the Koinadugu/Kono border, killing an estimated 19 civilians, abducting five females and burning at least 25 houses. Investigations by UNAMSIL human rights monitors revealed widespread attacks and counter attacks by the RUF and the CDF and vice versa in several villages in Northern Kono and Koinandugu districts. On 27 July 2001, UNAMSIL human rights monitors on a fact-finding mission to Henekuna village counted 10 bodies, those of five children, four women and one adult male. They saw five decomposing bodies, apparently of two women, two children and one man on the veranda of one burnt house. The skeletal remains of two other victims, presumably children, were behind and in front of two burnt houses respectively. The bodies of three other victims, presumed to be two women and one child, were lying in the nearby bush. Some bullet cases were also found on the site of the incident. The high rate of women and children victims of these attacks is a matter of serious concern and underlines the need to ensure the protection of civilians in conflict.

13. UNAMSIL human rights monitors also investigated attacks on the civilian population of the village of Seria in Koinadugu district, which was reportedly attacked by the RUF on 20 August 2001. According to accounts obtained from witnesses, the RUF captured around 13 men, beat them severely and cut them with knives. One man was shot dead after the beating and one other died later as a result of his injuries. The rebels were also said to have looted the village and set fire to most of the houses.

14. These human rights violations, as well as other reported skirmishes between the opposing factions, would appear to deviate from the general pattern of improvement in the human rights situation during most of 2001. While wanton attacks against the civilian population appear less prevalent, the issue of past human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law is assuming greater importance as hitherto inaccessible areas open up, allowing the deployment of human rights assessment missions.

15. In October and November 2001, UNAMSIL received information about a number of mass graves in villages in the Masimera and Maforki chiefdoms of the Port Loko district. In late November, the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section, in collaboration with the UNAMSIL Civilian Police, made the first of a series of visits to Taindicome and Nonkoba villages in the Masimera chiefdom to investigate mass graves allegedly found in the area. The aim of the visits was both to conduct a preliminary assessment of the allegations and to explore possibilities for the

preservation of the gravesites. Human rights officers were able to identify and interview witnesses to the alleged 1999 massacre at Taindicome village. They also visited the alleged graves and made a video and photographic record of both the evidence and the witnesses.

16. The visits to the alleged gravesites confirmed allegations made by witnesses that some of the gravesites contained human remains, as human skulls were surfacing from the ground in some cases. Whilst the villagers were able to identify the exact locations of some of the bodies, allegations that specific individuals were buried in at least one of the graves could not be conclusively proved without expert forensic analysis. The villagers were also unable to confirm the number of bodies buried in each gravesite.

17. Witnesses described the events leading up to the alleged massacre as follows. On 28 April 1999, an armed group of Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) forces and RUF combatants, repelled from the Occra Hills by soldiers of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), attacked Taindicome village. The majority of the villagers were captured and kept together with at least 50 other civilians who appeared to have been captured from other villages. About a week after the attack on and occupation of Taindicome, 47 people from the village and approximately 50 of those abducted elsewhere were killed. Several eyewitnesses related that the victims were beaten to death, predominantly with machetes, hoes or sticks to the head. They reported that the victims were buried in different sites by the assailants on the direct orders of one of their commanders. The witnesses also alleged that rape, torture and forced labour were commonplace during the period of the occupation and when the majority of those who survived were forced to proceed to Lunsar with the assailants, in the face of attacks by the CDF.

18. UNAMSIL, in consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone, has been involved in establishing appropriate methodology and protocols for the preservation of the sites. At the request of UNAMSIL, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has entered into discussions with a team of forensic experts with a view to their conducting a preliminary forensic analysis of the sites.

C. Refugees and internally displaced persons

19. The situation pertaining to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Sierra Leone has undergone considerable change in line with the new political climate prevailing in the country. The Security Council has shown considerable interest in this question. In resolution 1346 (2001) of 30 March 2001 it requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council his views on how to take forward the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons, including their return. The Secretary-General did so in his report of 23 May 2001 (S/2001/513) In its resolution 1370 (2001) of 18 September 2001, the Council requested an update. At the time of submission of the present report the update is still outstanding. In the second quarter of the year, there was a decrease in fighting between the opposing factions and a willingness on the part of the RUF to allow rapid UNAMSIL deployment throughout the country. The impact of the improvement in the security situation was almost immediate and resulted in an influx of Sierra Leonean refugees returning from Guinea, and to a lesser extent from Liberia. The Office

of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in coordination with the Government of Sierra Leone, assisted those refugees returning on a voluntary basis. By March 2001, UNHCR estimated that between 2,000 and 2,500 refugees were returning to Sierra Leone a week.

20. Many refugees returning from Guinea told similar stories of abuse in the hands of the Guinean armed forces and local militia. Newly arrived refugees reported incidents of beating, looting and rape. Allegations by some refugees that they were also harassed by the RUF as they crossed into Sierra Leone were denied by the RUF. The complexity of the situation in Guinea meant that providing adequate protection and assistance to the refugees who remained behind was a difficult problem. Once in Sierra Leone, the refugees were classified as returnees and taken by UNHCR to transit centres where they remained until resettlement.

21. The situation of Sierra Leone refugees in Guinea deteriorated in April and May 2001 when the Guinean army embarked on a military campaign to rid the country of RUF and suspected RUF sympathizers who allegedly were using the refugee camps as hideouts to launch attacks against the host country. This led to a refugee crisis along the border in Kambia district, where an estimated 30,000 people were displaced. Most of the newly displaced were settled in IDP camps in the south and west of the country. By December 2001, the improved security situation due to the completion of demobilization, the deployment of the Sierra Leone army, the presence of military observers and the restoration of State authority had created a new positive dynamic in the situation of IDPs and returnees. Some IDPs had begun to return to their homes as a result. At the time of writing the present report, in December 2001, UNHCR was preparing to help some 7,500 Sierra Leoneans, formerly refugees in Guinea, return to their homes in Kambia district. This would be the first time that returnees are assisted by UNHCR to return to their original homes since the beginning of the armed conflict more than a decade ago. The returnees concerned actually returned from Forecariah, Guinea, to Sierra Leone at the end of 2000. However, they could not return to their homes immediately and were cared for under temporary settlement programmes supported by UNHCR in communities in the Lungi area, north of Freetown.

22. Recent statistics from UNHCR indicate that it has assisted 59,826 returnees from the subregion back into Sierra Leone since the beginning of 2000. UNCHR has also supported returnees in their areas of return through several community-based projects, including health clinics, schools, water and sanitation, market places and support to the local administration. UNHCR has also supported the distribution of seedlings and tools, and micro-credit schemes to assist the re-establishment of returnees.

23. In concert with a number of national and international organizations, the National Commission for Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (NCRRR), has started implementing the first phase of its programme of resettlement of IDPs to government declared safe areas. This was preceded by a series of assessment missions to those areas to determine their suitability for resettlement. The process began in Port Loko district with the distribution of resettlement packages to 1,705 families, totalling 12,379 people. By the end of May 2001, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had transported 7,009 registered IDPs to new settlement areas. As of June 2001, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(OCHA) estimated that a total of 40,498 IDPs had been resettled in safe areas. Of these, 4,543 were IDPs from the western area who had registered for the second phase of resettlement.

24. Improvements in the security situation in various parts of the country have led to many IDPs expressing a desire to return to their places of origin. Of the 149 chiefdoms in the country, 76 have been declared safe. NCRRR, along with other humanitarian organizations, have continued to carry out assessment missions in these new areas and through the District Resettlement Assessment Committees report on the feasibility of resettling new areas. However, there are considerable obstacles to overcome in the resettlement process for IDPs. An assessment mission to Kono district, for instance, drew attention to the degree of destruction caused by the conflict, and the almost total absence of basic infrastructure, economic activity, public services and civil authorities. Notwithstanding, IDPs continue to return, sometimes on a voluntary basis. NCRRR estimated that the rate of return to Kambia in May 2001 was approximately 100 persons per day.

25. In view of the improving situation in the country, NCRRR and OCHA have recently completed a programme of re-verification of IDP and returnee transit camps in the western area, and intend to repeat the exercise in other areas of the country. Some of the smaller IDP and returnee transit camps will be phased out as the numbers of IDPs and returnees reduce. Assistance will be targeted at community based rehabilitation rather than emergency relief within the camps. The consolidation of some of these camps in the western area is planned to commence early in 2002.

26. Despite improvements in the rate of return related to the progress in the implementation of the peace process, the IDP and refugee population remains substantial. As of November 2001, the total IDP population in camps and in host communities was estimated at 247,000, of which 126,959 were resident in officially recognized IDP camps. UNHCR estimates that there are approximately 510,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who remain displaced in the subregion and that about 200,000 of them reside in neighbouring Guinea and Liberia.

D. Children and armed conflict

27. During the decade-long conflict in Sierra Leone, children have been the victims of myriad physical, mental and sexual abuses, ranging from separation, displacement, abduction, and drug abuse, to forced recruitment and use as combatants, and rape. Progress in the peace process and the commitment of the parties involved to the DDR programme have led, since the beginning of 2001, to the disarmament and demobilization of 3,834 children, including 241 girls. All child ex-combatants and separated children, released mainly from the RUF (2,190) and CDF (1,623) who registered in the DDR programme in this period, have been handed over to child protection agencies supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for rehabilitation and reintegration.

28. On 25 October 2001, UNAMSIL participated in the reunification of separated children and child ex-combatants from Bombali district with their families in Makeni. In a ceremony

presided over by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, a total of 95 children, including three girls, who had been in the care of Caritas Makeni since their release by the RUF or other fighting forces, were reunited with their families.

29. UNAMSIL, in conjunction with UNICEF and other child protection agencies, continued to express concern about the low percentage of girls released so far by the fighting forces. This situation could be a function of the fact that many girls abducted by the various fighting forces were used not only as combatants in the armed conflict, but were also forced into sexual services or unwillingly taken as "bush wives".

30. All steps are being taken to ensure that the reconciliation, accountability and rehabilitation processes being put in place under the auspices of the United Nations are tailored to respond to the special needs of children. In this respect, an important precedent was set on 21 November 2001, when a 14-year-old former child combatant from Sierra Leone addressed the Security Council as that body examined the issue of children and armed conflict. The ex-combatant told the Council how he was kidnapped from his village in 1997 by the RUF and forced to kill, cut limbs, burn houses and destroy property. He also spoke of his struggle to reintegrate back into society. This was the first time that a child has addressed the Security Council.

31. The issue of children has deservedly received special attention in the preparations for the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). From 4 to 6 June 2001, UNICEF in collaboration with UNAMSIL and the National Forum for Human Rights held an expert meeting in Freetown. The aim was to define the framework for participation and protection of children in the TRC process. National and international experts who participated in the meeting explored the extent to which children were affected by the armed conflict in Sierra Leone and how the TRC could deal with child offenders. Among other things, the experts recommended that the work of the TRC on children be guided by the protection principles enshrined in international instruments. They also recommended that the protection of children be assured throughout the TRC process, including through ensuring confidentiality and anonymity in the process, and allowing the children to participate voluntarily. The technical meeting emphasized the need for collaboration with child protection agencies working in Sierra Leone to ensure that the TRC builds upon ongoing processes of reintegration and reconciliation. The meeting also recommended that special attention should be given to the situation of girls, particularly as it relates to gender-based violence during the conflict.

E. Women's rights

32. The extent of the sexual violence that characterized the Sierra Leone conflict is only becoming evident as the reports of scientific research on the issue become public knowledge and hitherto inaccessible areas of the country open up. A recent report co-sponsored by UNAMSIL and an international NGO to establish the prevalence and impact of sexual violence during the conflict graphically portrays a hitherto under-reported phenomenon. During the research, 733 randomly selected women, of whom 143 or 19.5 per cent were girls aged between 6 and 17, were interviewed. Of these, 72.9 and 52.3 per cent reported experiencing human rights violations and

sexual violence respectively; 47.1 and 26.1 per cent were raped or gang-raped respectively. Approximately 41.7 per cent of the interviewees had been abducted and 3.4 per cent had been forced to marry their abductor. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 to 60,000 IDP women were victims of rape.

33. These findings are consistent with the outcome of a data-gathering project on war-related sexual violence conducted by the United States-based Physicians for Human Rights and a Sierra Leone gender expert with the assistance of OHCHR and UNAMSIL. The survey showed that a striking 94 per cent of 991 households randomly selected reported that at least one family member had been a victim of an abuse. The greater part of these abuses occurred between 1997 and 1999 and the majority of the perpetrators identified were RUF. The full report of this project will be published shortly. It depicts a disturbing and under-reported pattern of violence and abuse against women and promises to be an important tool for advocacy on this important issue.

34. At the invitation of the Government of Sierra Leone, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women conducted a fact-finding visit to Sierra Leone from 21 to 29 August 2001. During her visit the Special Rapporteur visited Freetown, Kenema, Bo and Makeni. She met with senior members of the Government, the RUF high command, officials of UNAMSIL, representatives of several women's groups and members of the diplomatic community. She took numerous testimonies and was presented with 100 written testimonies from women victims of war-related sexual violence.

35. Upon the conclusion of her visit, the Special Rapporteur gave a press briefing in which she confirmed what had already been known as the hallmark of the Sierra Leone conflict, namely, systematic and widespread rape and sexual violence directed against women of all ages, including very young girls, individual and gang rape, sexual assault with objects and sexual slavery. Women were generally abducted, raped and/or killed or forced into marriages with their abductors. Many of the girls that were subsequently released were pregnant, nursing mothers or had been infected with sexually transmitted diseases. Girls as young as 4 years were abducted and raped. She also expressed concern about the country's commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and condemned, among other things, traditional practices that are harmful to women, including female genital mutilation, and discriminatory laws on inheritance. She recommended that the war-time experiences of women and their post-conflict needs should be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of policies relating to the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process. The process, she recommended, should also provide the necessary conditions to enable those women and girls who had been forced into matrimonial or other relationships to leave demobilized combatants, if they wished to. She called attention to the special needs of dependants of combatants or camp followers in a DDR process. The detailed report of the fact-finding mission is contained in an addendum to the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/83/Add.2).

36. Civil society groups and non-governmental organizations played an important role in briefing the Special Rapporteur on the situation of women in Sierra Leone. A series of research projects that have been undertaken supplied a wealth of information on the plight of women in Sierra Leone. According to some of their findings, the 10-year civil war has had an adverse and devastating effect on over 80 per cent of the female population. The war has provoked a great

deal of migration from rural to urban areas. Women have been forced to live in camps with virtually no economic basis on which to support their families, many of them now being heads of household. There are many problems adversely affecting women's health, from malnutrition to maternal infirmities. Women die from complications such as haemorrhage, anaemia, obstructed labour and legal abortion. Female genital mutilation and polygamous marriages put women at increased risk of infections, including HIV/AIDS. Fewer girls than boys are registered in educational institutions (24 per cent compared to 43 per cent) and girls have a higher drop-out rate. Over 90 per cent of women work in the informal sector and are barred from owning land. They are discriminated against in trading and small-scale enterprise and have very limited access to credit, relevant training, information and technology. One of the most disturbing characteristics of the civil war has been the incidence of violence committed specifically against women.

37. In the context of the disarmament process in the northern districts of Bombali and Tonkolili during the months of October and November 2001, human rights officers carried out over 100 interviews with women ex-combatants and women who had been abducted by the RUF, popularly known as "camp followers". This was done to assess the situation of the women and in some cases, advice and assistance was offered to those wishing to leave their abductors.

38. In November 2001, the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section provided substantive support to the team from the Training and Evaluation Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), which conducted a two-week training on gender in peace keeping. The programme involved over 1,000 UNAMSIL peacekeepers and civilian personnel from both Freetown and the provinces. Local human rights activists and women's organizations were invited to enrich the training and contribute a domestic perspective on gender issues. The activity represents one of the efforts to mainstream gender into UNAMSIL operations.

F. Detainees under the state of emergency

39. With regard to detention issues, the period under review has seen important shifts in government positions, demonstrated by the release of "safe custody" detainees held under the state of emergency since May 2000, and a more open and cooperative attitude towards the prison monitoring work of the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section. This has provided an appropriate framework for independent assessment of the conditions of detention in the national prisons.

40. In May 2001, the RUF spokesman declared at a tripartite meeting (see para. 7 above) that 11 detained RUF members had died in Freetown Central Prison. These deaths were the subject of a Human Rights Section investigation, which established that at least 15 detainees had died, including the high-ranking RUF member who died subsequently on 21 July 2001. According to detainees interviewed in the prison, many of the deaths could have been due to poor nutrition and inadequate medical care. Additionally, some detainees alleged that they were tortured on 18 March 2001 following riots in Freetown Central Prison on 14 March. According to them, torture was the direct cause of the death of at least two RUF members. The Government categorically denied this allegation stating that prison deaths had been due to natural causes and not torture or inadequate care.

41. On the positive side, the number of persons detained pursuant to the Public Emergency Regulation 1999, (Public Notice 3 of 1999), who have been in custody without charge or access to legal counsel and information since May 2000, dropped from more than 200 in July 2001 to 114 men and women by the first week of November 2001. Since the first meeting of the joint committee on DDR in May 2001, advances in the peace process have led the Government to release some of the detainees as a confidence-building measure. Since July 2001, a total of 129 individuals, including leading RUF members, have been set free. Notwithstanding this, the continued detention of 114 others remains of serious concern, especially considering that they are yet to be charged and only some of them are held under the emergency regulations.

42. With the lifting of restrictions on access in the second half of the year, prison visits by human rights officers have allowed for independent assessment of the conditions of detention. Assessment visits have been carried out in Freetown Central Prison and the regional prisons in Bo, Kenema, Pujehun, Bonthe and Moyamba. While the conditions of detention and general treatment of prisoners in Pujehun and Bonthe were judged to be humane, Kenema, Bo and Moyamba prisons were in critical states of disrepair owing to years of neglect. None of the latter were considered as meeting the minimum international standards. Children, and detainees on remand and awaiting trial were held in the same prisons as convicts. There was a serious problem of overcrowding with up to 12 detainees in cells designed to accommodate only 4 persons. Additionally, there was no clear separation of men, women and children, who shared the same courtyard during the day.

43. The current prison population of the six functioning detention centres in Sierra Leone, is 586, of whom 372 are detained in Freetown Central Prison. This prison has a higher concentration of prisoners than all the other prisons put together because a majority of judicial officials are based in the capital. Other factors affecting the prison population include understaffing of the judiciary. Twenty men and women serve as judges and magistrates for the whole country. There is also an acute shortage of public prosecutors. Eighteen lawyers work for the Law Officers Department, six of whom are affiliated to the Office of the Public Prosecutor. In the provinces, the judiciary is almost non-existent, with the exception of Bo and Kenema, where magistrates have been assigned. Other regions receive itinerant magistrates and law officers on an ad hoc basis. These shortcomings have contributed to prolonged pre-trial detention and the failure to prosecute many suspected criminals.

G. Freedom of the press

44. In mid-September 2001, seven Sierra Leone journalists reportedly received a written threat stating all seven must die before the elections, in a letter postmarked Freetown and signed by an unknown group. These journalists were known to be against the extension of the Government's mandate and to have publicly campaigned for the National Consultative Conference. Members of UNAMSIL Human Rights Section spoke to some of these journalists, who professed to be unaware of the source of the death threats. The Government publicly denied any involvement.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SIERRA LEONE

A. UNAMSIL and the Human Rights Section

45. UNAMSIL was established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1270 (1999) of 26 October 1999. UNAMSIL has both civilian and military components consistent with its multidisciplinary mandate to cooperate with the Government of Sierra Leone and other parties in the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement, as well as in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process. The military strength of UNAMSIL reached its authorized full strength of 17,500 in November 2001 and the Mission has deployed to all districts of the country. All Security Council resolutions on the situation in Sierra Leone since the establishment of UNAMSIL, including the most recent, resolution 1370 (2001) of 18 September 2001, have emphasized the importance of effective action on the issues of impunity and accountability and respect for human rights in the country. In order to meet these challenges, UNAMSIL has a Human Rights Section with an authorized staff strength of 20 human rights officers, including two United Nations Volunteers (UNVs). The Section has requested six additional positions, including two UNVs, during the 2002/2003 budget year. The increased staff strength will improve the potential of the Section to ensure the successful implementation of human rights activities in a vastly improved operational environment. At various times in 2001, the Section operated at between 75 and 80 per cent of its authorized staff capacity owing to delays in the recruitment process and difficulties in identifying, deploying and retaining qualified staff in a difficult duty station. OHCHR has been consulting with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) at the highest levels to streamline the recruitment process and shorten the time between identification and deployment of field staff. Proposed changes would also include an effective system to respond more rapidly and efficiently to situations of high staff turnover.

46. The broad range of human rights activities of UNAMSIL, including support to the building of human rights infrastructure, is set out in various resolutions of the Security Council and the Commission on Human Rights. Aspects of this mandate are also covered by the human rights provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the Sierra Leone Human Rights Manifesto adopted during the visit of the High Commissioner in June 1999 (see E/CN.4/2000/31, para. 26). The human rights mandate of the Mission includes monitoring, training, capacity building, technical cooperation and advocacy. The Section has also taken up the additional responsibility of assisting OHCHR in implementing its mandate to support the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) for Sierra Leone. To assist the effective implementation of the Section's mandate, OHCHR supported it in designing specialist positions for national institutions, the rule of law, training and civil society, child rights, gender and truth and reconciliation issues.

47. The relationship between OHCHR and UNAMSIL emanates from the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OHCHR and DPKO. This relationship is further strengthened by the terms of the Sierra Leone Human Rights Manifesto adopted in June 1999 during the visit of the High Commissioner. The MOU recognizes that respect for human rights is fundamental to the promotion of peace and security, and a unified United Nations approach is essential to fostering the achievement of these two Charter-mandated objectives in the country. Thus, it

seeks to place the promotion and protection of human rights at the centre of United Nations efforts to prevent conflicts, to maintain peace and to assist in post-conflict reconstruction. UNAMSIL has provided a context for the practical implementation of the MOU between OHCHR and DPKO. OHCHR notes with satisfaction that progress has been made in the integration of human rights and the Human Rights Section in the work and operations of UNAMSIL. The Human Rights Section is included in mainstream activities of the Mission and has also undertaken, with the agreement of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, additional responsibilities in support of specific OHCHR activities in Sierra Leone.

48. With the substantive backstopping of OHCHR, the Human Rights Section identifies human rights issues of concern in Sierra Leone. In collaboration with OHCHR, it develops projects and programmes to address the issues. These activities are sometimes funded directly by OHCHR or by others through OHCHR. The Section, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, established a Sierra Leone human rights committee, which meets fortnightly, providing a forum for consultations and the exchange of ideas and information between the various actors, both local and international. The human rights committee has continued to serve as an important instrument for UNAMSIL to strengthen its relationship with the human rights community. The committee's bi-monthly meetings bring together over 25 representatives of national and international NGOs, and United Nations agencies, and offer an opportunity to exchange information and skills on human rights issues. These meetings are sometimes devoted to special themes, such as prison conditions, child rights, violence against women or the Word Conference against Racism. This initiative has been replicated on a monthly basis in the eastern region of Kenema since August 2001.

49. The Section has also developed an important relationship with the umbrella organization of local NGOs, the National Forum for Human Rights, through the implementation of joint human rights activities.

B. Activities in the field

50. In response to the improved security situation and the full deployment of UNAMSIL in all districts of Sierra Leone, the Human Rights Section is working to increase its presence in the field and has started to establish satellite offices in provincial locations. The Section has already opened two regional offices and has widened its activities through providing human rights clinics in hitherto inaccessible areas. The Eastern Regional Office based in Kenema opened on 2 May 2001. The Northern Regional Office based in the provincial capital of Makeni opened on 25 September 2001. Makeni was formerly the headquarters of the RUF. The regional offices implement the full range of human rights activities covered by the mandate of UNAMSIL, including training, monitoring and reporting, as well as raising public awareness of human rights, international humanitarian law and the TRC.

51. The Eastern Regional Office in Kenema is composed of two human rights monitors. During its first six months of operation, the office conducted seven training sessions on human rights and international humanitarian law for over 200 officers and men, including reservists of the 3rd Brigade and 10th Battalion of the Sierra Leone army. It also held five training sessions for over 100 officers of the Police Force. The regional office also monitored the registration of returnees through Caritas, Kenema and their relocation to IDP camps in Barri chiefdom

(Pujehun district). It conducted regular assessment visits to IDP camps, including the Blama camp where nearly 15,000 IDPs from the districts of Kailahun and Kono reside. As part of its civic education activities, the Kenema team facilitated the "UNAMSIL Hour", a weekly radio programme covering human rights issues.

52. The Northern Regional Office is composed of three human rights monitors covering the Bombali, Tonkolili and Koinadugu districts. The office conducted investigations into the illegal arrest and detention of criminal suspects by the RUF in Makeni, as well as allegations of illegal detention of individuals by CDF members in Kabala. It has also implemented sensitization activities, mainly on the TRC. During the disarmament phase of the peace process, the office ran sensitization workshops for over 1,000 RUF and CDF ex-combatants in the demobilization camps of Bombali and Tonkolili districts.

53. It is envisaged that the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section will open additional regional offices once it attains its authorized staff strength, including the newly requested positions for the 2002/2003 budget year. In the interim, the areas outside the jurisdiction of the existing regional offices are being covered by human rights monitors and specialists based in Freetown. The Freetown headquarters continue to carry out investigations in the areas outside the jurisdiction of the two regional human rights offices.

C. Training

54. Owing to improvements in operational conditions in 2001, human rights promotion, education, advocacy and capacity building through training in Sierra Leone intensified. The major areas of activity were support for Sierra Leonean institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, capacity building in civil society through cooperative work with local NGOs, and flexible responses to the evolving peace process.

55. The Section has conducted a series of human rights training sessions with the Sierra Leone Police (SLP), the Sierra Leone Military Police (SLAMP), the Sierra Leone Army (SLA) and the new recruits from the growing pool of ex-combatants slated for incorporation into the largely British trained new SLA. Over 15 sessions covering a range of human rights issues, with a focus on minimum use of force, arrest and detention procedures, and community policing, have been conducted for some 100 senior officers of the SLP.

56. The SLAMP and SLA have also received the equivalent amount of training with a focus on political accountability within the armed forces and a reinforcement of training on international humanitarian law issues, guidelines on the treatment of internally displaced persons, and refugee law. The majority of this training took place between February and April 2001 at the Bengwema training centre and at the Wilberforce barracks education centre. The sessions were aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the human rights education programme by targeting a core group of 150 trainers who will in turn train others. More recent work, in July and August 2001 targeted groups of ex-RUF and CDF who are being incorporated in the SLA through the Military Reintegration Programme spearheaded by the International Military Assistance and Training Team. Ongoing SLA training for forces in the field has also continued through the joint efforts of the Human Rights Eastern Regional Office in Kenema and headquarters in Freetown.

57. The Section is also working with several local NGOs on a variety of human rights topics. The Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), an NGO supported by grants from the Open Society Institute, has benefited from four one-day sessions on human rights investigation and reporting techniques for its field monitors. The Fourah Bay College launched a human rights clinic in February 2001 and has worked with the Human Rights Section on several occasions, most notably in March 2001 in conjunction with Yale University Law School and in July 2001 on questions relating to the TRC. Other NGOs and institutions have benefited from direct cooperation with the Section, especially on sensitization for the TRC. These organizations include the National Forum for Human Rights, Caritas Makeni, the Inter-Religious Council, Youth for a Sustainable Lomé Agreement, Forum of Conscience and the World Council on Religion and Peace.

58. In November 2001, the Section conducted a two-week "training of trainers" workshop for five religious leaders from the Christian and Muslim communities affiliated with the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP). The training prepared the religious leaders to raise awareness concerning human rights issues in their communities.

D. Training and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process

59. From May to November 2001, the Human Rights Section conducted a series of interventions in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) camps. This followed an agreement with the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (NCDDR) allowing the Human Rights Section to participate in the pre-discharge orientation programme. The programme was designed to facilitate the reintegration aspect of DDR for ex-combatants. Under this programme, the Section provided sessions focusing on human rights and the TRC for former RUF, CDF and child combatants.

E. Capacity building and advocacy

60. Under the guidance of OHCHR, the UNAMSIL Human Rights Section proposed three human rights projects for funding in the 2002 Annual Appeal of OHCHR and 2002 Consolidated Appeals Process. The three projects were designed with the long-term objective of strengthening local and regional capacity to address, prevent and document human rights abuses in the country. The first is entitled, "Support for National Institutions" and aims to provide technical and material assistance to support the establishment of an independent national human rights commission in Sierra Leone and the strengthening of the office of the Ombudsman.

61. The second project aims to support the Law Centre for Legal Assistance (LAWCLA). LAWCLA was founded in March 2001 by a group of Sierra Leonean lawyers to facilitate access to legal services for Sierra Leoneans as an essential element for the establishment and maintenance of the rule of law in the country. LAWCLA, a public interest law centre, provides free legal services to indigent members of the public and plans to undertake impact litigation on strategic test cases relating to human rights violations and abuses in Sierra Leone. A committee of four legal practitioners coordinates the activities of LAWCLA, with an executive director as head. Already, LAWCLA has secured the release of 75 adults in prolonged pre-trial detention. In the area of juvenile justice, LAWCLA, with the assistance of other child protection NGOs, has gone to court and secured the release of 22 children.

62. The third project seeks to support the establishment of a human rights documentation, information and training centre in Freetown, the main objective of which is to provide a resource for human rights research and training for the human rights community, the judiciary, civil servants and law enforcement agencies.

F. Publications

63. The UNAMSIL Human Rights Section has distributed United Nations human rights publications produced by OHCHR through public sector and NGO channels. It also initiated the local publication of materials using Krio, the lingua franca in Sierra Leone, and English, as appropriate. To date, the Human Rights Section has disseminated leaflets on the TRC throughout the country and has also propagated its message through on-going weekly radio programmes about the TRC, hosted by Radio-UNAMSIL. In addition, the Section has produced and distributed copies of a question-and-answer leaflet to respond to public queries on the TRC. In December 2001, the Section released a major textbook on the TRC, containing selected articles to broaden understanding of the TRC process.

64. In the light of the forthcoming elections in Sierra Leone and as part of its contribution to strengthening the capacity of the Sierra Leone Police, the Human Rights Section, in collaboration with other sections of UNAMSIL, has compiled a set of relevant reader-friendly materials. A 20-page handbook and a leaflet on the subject of human rights and elections have been issued prior to voter registration.

G. World Conference against Racism

65. The UNAMSIL Human Rights Section compiled and distributed the highlights of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban from 31 August to 7 September 2001, in order to keep UNAMSIL staff and the immediate community in Freetown informed on this important event.

H. Establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

66. Consistent with Commission resolution 2001/20 (para. 11 (a)), OHCHR continued to assist the Government of Sierra Leone to establish the TRC. Since the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, OHCHR has commenced the implementation of its revised project to support the preparatory phase of the TRC. The revision increased the total cost of the project to about US$ 890,000 from an initial US$ 850,000. It also took into consideration the additional responsibility of the Commission for dealing with children and the establishment of the Special Court authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1315 (2000) of 14 August 2000. The revised project has the following major thrusts:

(i) A public education/information campaign;

(ii) Mapping the conflict, i.e. compiling information on key defining events within the period of temporal jurisdiction of the Commission;

(iii) Researching the traditional methods of conflict resolution and reconciliation;

(iv) The selection of commissioners;

(v) Preliminary identification of facility requirements of the Commission;

(vi) Providing a forum for clarifying of the relationship between the TRC and the Special Court;

(vii) Providing technical support for developing mechanisms to enable the TRC to fulfil its additional mandate regarding juvenile offenders;

(viii) Support for the Commission during the statutory three-month preparatory period;

(ix) Providing assistance for determining the total budgetary requirements of the Commission and preparing a comprehensive project document to support the Commission once established.

67. The implementation of the project is in an advanced phase and OHCHR has had to step up its activities in this regard in response to the improvements in the operational environment. In accordance with the detailed programme of activities agreed upon by the High Commissioner and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, focal points have been appointed in Geneva and Freetown to ensure the efficient implementation of the project.

68. Pursuant to this project, OHCHR concluded a grant agreement with the International Human Rights Law Group to design and facilitate a comprehensive public information campaign for the TRC. The Law Group is working with the National Forum for Human Rights, its TRC Working Group and the local media, in cooperation and coordination with UNAMSIL. OHCHR is working with a local NGO, Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), to collect and collate information regarding key defining events within the period of temporal jurisdiction of the TRC. Another national NGO, Manifesto 99, has been commissioned to research the traditional methods of reconciliation with a view to identifying elements that could be integrated into the truth and reconciliation process. Manifesto 99 has already submitted its draft final report. The selection of international commissioners, recommenced in January 2001 after an interruption following the events of May 2000 and the selection of national commissioners, started in February 2001, has concluded. The High Commissioner and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General have identified the three international and four national members of the commission, whose names will be forwarded to President Kabbah for his approval.

69. Preparations for the practical establishment of the TRC were given impetus by a number of seminars organized during 2001. These included an expert meeting on the relationship between the TRC and the Special Court (see paragraph 70 below), a seminar on operational and managerial aspects of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (see paragraph 72 below) and the UNICEF-organized technical meeting of experts on the TRC and children (see paragraph 31 above). The meetings were held pursuant to the recommendations of the National Workshop on the TRC organized by OHCHR in collaboration with UNAMSIL and the National Forum for Human Rights in November 2000 in Freetown.

70. The expert meeting on the relationship between the TRC and the Special Court was organized by OHCHR and the Office for Legal Affairs (OLA) of the United Nations in New York on 20 and 21 December 2001. The participants discussed the important issue of an amicable relationship between the two institutions that would reflect their roles, and the difficult issue of whether information could and should be shared between them. The pros and cons of a wide range of possibilities regarding cooperation between the Commission and the Court were examined. Based on those discussions, the participants agreed on a number of basic principles that should guide the TRC and the Special Court in determining modalities of cooperation. These principles include the following:

(i) The TRC and the Special Court were established at different times, under different legal bases and with different mandates. Yet they perform complementary roles in ensuring accountability, deterrence, a story-telling mechanism for both victims and perpetrators, national reconciliation, reparation and restorative justice for the people of Sierra Leone.

(ii) While the Special Court has primacy over the national courts of Sierra Leone, the TRC does not fall within this mould. In any event, the relationship between the two bodies should not be discussed on the basis of primacy or lack of it. The ultimate operational goal of the TRC and the Court should be guided by the request of the Security Council and the Secretary-General to "operate in a complementary and mutually supportive manner fully respectful of their distinct but related functions" (S/2001/40, paragraph 9; see also S/2000/1234).

(iii) The modalities of cooperation should be institutionalized in an agreement between the TRC and the Special Court and, where appropriate, also in their respective rules of procedure. They should respect fully the independence of the two institutions and their respective mandates.

71. The expert group also agreed on a communiqué, which formed the background for additional discussions in Freetown on 15 January 2002 between OHCHR, OLA, UNAMSIL and other concerned parties.

72. The operational and management seminar took place from 29 May to 1 June 2001 and was attended by representatives of the Government and the local diplomatic community, civil society organizations and the UNAMSIL leadership. Approximately 40 representatives of NGOs directly involved in the truth and reconciliation and DDR processes took part in the seminar. The seminar explored the methodologies that the Commission might use to establish the truth and to address impunity. It discussed the organizational structure of the Commission and its budget and reviewed the issues concerning the relationship between the TRC and the independent Special Court. The seminar provided a sound platform for concrete discussions on the practical aspects of the establishment of the Commission and its recommendations would provide guidelines for the next steps towards the establishment of the Commission. The seminar recommended, among other things, the establishment of an interim secretariat for the TRC to take over the responsibility of implementing activities relating to the establishment of the Commission. The wide publicity enjoyed by the seminar helped to increase awareness of the truth and reconciliation process among the people of Sierra Leone.

73. Following the recommendations of the operational and management seminar, OHCHR has developed a related project with a budget of US$ 750,000 to support an interim secretariat "start-up team" for the Sierra Leone TRC. The interim secretariat will be composed of national and international staff. On 1 November 2001, the High Commissioner wrote to President Kabbah requesting him to recommend an interim executive secretary for the Commission. President Kabbah's recommendation was communicated in a letter dated 28 November 2001 and OHCHR has commenced preparations to set up the interim secretariat. This secretariat will undertake the logistical and preparatory tasks necessary for the establishment of the Commission, including procurement of office space and equipment, the establishment of the Commission's financial management system, the design of a database, the undertaking of preliminary research and the preparation of orientation sessions for the commissioners. The secretariat will commence work on 1 March 2002 and will thus free the Commission to concentrate on addressing the substantive issues relating to its functioning during the three-month preparatory period that will immediately follow its inauguration.

74. The progressive improvement in the security situation adds some urgency to the need to obtain the necessary funds for the TRC. It is estimated that the Commission will become functional in the first half of 2002. From 13 to 17 January 2002, OHCHR fielded a high-level inter-branch mission to Freetown to, inter alia, prepare the grounds for the establishment of the TRC. Based on the practical estimates of this mission, the TRC should be appointed by President Kabbah in mid-May, 2002. It will commence the statutory preparatory phase on 1 June 2002 with a view to starting full operations three months later, on 1 September 2002. The interim secretariat will ensure that the practical requirements for the commencement of the TRC are met by 1 June 2002.

75. Public awareness activities on the TRC increased throughout 2001 and there exists a high degree of support for the TRC amongst those who are aware of the institution's objectives. The International Human Rights Law Group (IHRLG), under a grant agreement with OHCHR, is providing strategic direction and impetus to the sensitization campaign, in particular by facilitating civil society processes. In August 2001, the Law Group organized a four-day planning workshop to develop key, consistent messages on the TRC. This was followed by a detailed national public awareness campaign held in conjunction with UNAMSIL, the National Forum for Human Rights, its TRC Working Group, the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights and other interested sectors of civil society.

76. Through the OHCHR project of support to the TRC, two further grants of US$ 10,000 each will be made, to the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights and the National Forum for Human Rights, to carry out TRC sensitization activities. Their activities will include the translation of the two TRC informational leaflets into four languages and further sensitization workshops, sessions and radio discussions with students and educational and traditional leaders. Already the TRC Working Group of the National Forum for Human Rights publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "Truth bulletin", which is now in its eighth issue.

77. The UNAMSIL Human Rights Section's activities, often in partnership with local NGOs, have included educational and workshop sessions, in which over 5,000 Sierra Leone nationals have participated. The Section has also targeted its awareness activities at those

sectors of society with the least knowledge of the TRC. It has held 25 workshops with 4,000 ex-combatants. With the agreement of the RUF leadership, UNAMSIL, in July and August 2001 organized a TRC information workshop for the RUF and for about 80 members of the public in RUF-controlled Makeni. The most recent sensitization workshop took place in Kabala, Koinadugu district, on 25 October 2001 and was attended by 100 participants, including both CDF and RUF ex-combatants. The Section also produced and distributed 100,000 copies of an illustrated information leaflet, as well as 10,000 leaflets containing 20 questions and answers about the process. It also produces weekly radio programmes. In August 2001, the Section established a TRC web site.

I. The Special Court

78. On 16 January 2002, the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations signed the Agreement on the Establishment of a Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Statute annexed thereto (S/2000/915, annex). The Secretary-General has already authorized preparations for the operation of the Special Court, beginning with the fielding of a planning mission to Freetown from 7 to 18 January 2002. This decision had required the Secretary-General to review the initial understanding that the establishment would commence only after sufficient funds to finance its establishment and operations for 12 months and pledges equal to the anticipated expenses for the following 24 months had been received. The Secretary-General considered that there was sufficient political will and commitment on the part of Member States to overlook the shortfall of US$ 1.4 million and US$ 7.4 million[2] for the first and subsequent years of operations, respectively, of the Court.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

79. The peace process in Sierra Leone has come a long way from the near collapse of mid-2000 when the RUF took United Nations hostages and threatened to revert to all-out war. The successful implementation of the cease-fire agreement signed in Abuja, Nigeria, on 10 November 2000 created the environment for the restoration of the peace process. In May 2001, DDR was relaunched. The steady progress in its implementation has added a new positive dynamic to the security situation in the country. So far, disarmament has been concluded and on 18 January 2002 the Government declared the end of armed conflict. UNAMSIL has reached its authorized troop strength of 17,500 and deployed in all districts. The curfew imposed following the declaration of a state of emergency has been lifted. The country is preparing for elections, scheduled for 14 May 2002. These developments have yielded some human rights dividends in terms of improved conditions for the protection and promotion of human rights. The UNAMSIL Human Rights Section has taken advantage of the situation to open two regional offices to take its activities closer to the long-suffering people of Sierra Leone. The Section plans to open more regional offices in 2002.

80. Attacks on civilians and skirmishes between opposing military factions have continued intermittently. They are not systematic, but nonetheless represent serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law. These isolated violations of the cease-fire represent only an aberration from the general improvement in the security situation. While wanton attacks and gross violations of human rights against civilians appear less prevalent, the question of previous violations and abuses is gradually coming to the fore as the rebel RUF relinquishes control of

parts of the country and practical indices of serious crimes surface. The discovery of mass graves in some parts of the country hitherto under rebel control only indicates the nature of the challenge that the international community faces in its struggle against impunity and for accountability and justice in Sierra Leone. OHCHR, with the support of Member States, will continue to assist these processes through support to the TRC as an important instrument for the restoration of Sierra Leone. OHCHR will sustain its collaboration with OLA in order to ensure that the necessary operational conditions are created to enable the Commission and the Court to "operate", in the words of the Secretary-General, "in a complementary and mutually supportive manner, fully respectful of their distinct but related functions".[3]

Notes

[1] In the interlude between the submission of the High Commissioner's reports to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/35 of 1 February 2001) and to the General Assembly (A/56/281 of July 2001) the Secretary-General submitted two reports on UNAMSIL to the Security Council (S/2001/228 of 14 March 2001 and S/2001/627 of 25 June 2001). He also submitted a report (S/2001/513 of 23 May 2001) on the situation of refugees and IDPs pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1346 (2001).

[2] As at 5 December 2001, contributions in the amount of US$ 14.8 million for the first year of operations and pledges in the amounts of US$ 13 million and US$ 7.4 million for the next 24 months of operations had been received. See S/2001/1195 of 13 December 2001.

[3] Letter of 12 January 2001 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/40). See also letter of 22 December 2000 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General (S/2000/1234).